

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 091834Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6396

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 16074

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CY, UK

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: NICOSIA AND LARNACA AIRPORTS

1. CHRISTOPHIDES HAS REPLIED TO BRITISH THAT SHARED GREEK CYPRIOT AND TURKISH CYPRIOT CONTROL OF REOPENED NICOSIA AIRPORT MUST BE CAPPED BY A UN HAT. THERE SHOULD BE SOME AUTHORITY ISSUING INSTRUCTIONS, AND CHRISTOPHIDES DOUBTS THAT TURKS WOULD AGREE TO THAT AUTHORITY BEING GREEK CYPRIOT MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION, BRITISH TOLD VISITING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN TODAY (DECEMBER 9).

2. COMMENT: BRITISH THINK THERE IS SOME PRACTICAL LOGIC IN THIS POSITION EVEN THOUGH THEY RECOGNIZE UNDERLYING POLITICAL FACTORS.

3. BRITISH (KILLICK) ALSO TOLD HARTMAN THAT HICOMER OLVER JUST TODAY REPORTED HIS BELIEF THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS INTEND TO OPEN LARNACA AIRPORT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS WITH NICOSIA AIRPORT OR BRITISH OFFER OF AKROTIRI (WHICH HAS STILL NOT BEEN MADE). CYPRIOTS WOULD THEN OFFER
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LARNACA'S USE TO ANY AIRLINE WILLING TO RUN IT. OLVER

SAID HE HAD SEEN NO INDICATION THAT CLERIDES' DECISION TO ACCEPT BRITISH MIDLANDS OFFER HAD BEEN ACTED ON, OR WAS IN PROCESS OF BEING ACTED ON. HE WONDERED IF IT STOOD.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE SUGGESTED TO DEPARTMENT HEAD GOODISON THAT BRITISH SHOULD PUSH THEIR OWN AIRLINE'S OFFER, SINCE LARNACA WOULD PROBABLY BE TOO SMALL TO HANDLE BRITISH AIRLINE AND AEROFLOT TOO, PARTICULARLY IF BRITISH OFFER IS GENEROUS. GOODISON NOTED THIS POINT. HE SAID BRITISH AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVES ARE BUSY ON THE MATTER, AND BRITISH REGIONAL CIVIL AIR ATTACHE IN BEIRUT HAS FLOWN TO CYPRUS, WHERE HE CAN PURSUE THE MATTER THROUGH HIS OWN CONTACTS.

SPIERS

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